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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/764,729

01/17/2001

John David Bacchiaz

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7590

11/29/2006

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EXAMINER

DANG, HUNG Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ND

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/764,729

Applicant(s)

BACCHIAZ ET AL.

Examiner

Hung Q. Dang

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 41-65, 69-73, 75-77, 79-87 and 89-95 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 46, 77 and 79 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 41, 42, 44, 45, 47-58, 60-62, 64, 65, 69-73, 75, 76, 80-87 and 95 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 43, 59, 63 and 89-94 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 January 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to application's amendment dated 9/18/2006. The canceled claims 1-40, 66-68, 74, 78, 88; and the added claims 89-95 have been entered.

Specification

2. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Content of Specification

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- (a) Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a) and MPEP § 606. The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification unless the title is provided in an application data sheet. The title of the invention should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words may not contain more than 500 characters.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Development: See MPEP § 310.
- (d) The Names Of The Parties To A Joint Research Agreement: See 37 CFR 1.71(g).
- (e) Incorporation-By-Reference Of Material Submitted On a Compact Disc: The specification is required to include an incorporation-by-reference of electronic documents that are to become part of the permanent United States Patent and Trademark Office records in the file of a patent application. See 37 CFR 1.52(e) and MPEP § 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text were permitted as electronic documents on compact discs beginning on September 8, 2000.
- (f) Background of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:
 - (1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."
 - (2) Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."
- (g) Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward

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the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

- (h) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.
- (i) Detailed Description of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.
- (j) Claim or Claims: See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(m). The claim or claims must commence on separate sheet or electronic page (37 CFR 1.52(b)(3)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(i)-(p).
- (k) Abstract of the Disclosure: See MPEP § 608.01(f). A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 150 words or less commencing on a separate sheet following the claims. In an international application which has entered the national stage (37 CFR 1.491(b)), the applicant need not submit an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if an abstract was published with the international application under PCT Article 21. The abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet published by the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the abstract that will be used by the USPTO. See MPEP § 1893.03(e).

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- (l) Sequence Listing. See 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 and MPEP §§ 2421-2431. The requirement for a sequence listing applies to all sequences disclosed in a given application, whether the sequences are claimed or not. See MPEP § 2421.02.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: it does not contain separate headings for "Background of the Invention", "Brief Summary of the Invention", "Detailed Description of the Invention".

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "smart chip" claimed in claims 53 and 87 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an

application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments **regarding claim 54** have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On page 13 of the remarks, applicant argues that the Bonder reference does not disclose or suggest a barrel for retention of a movable component having contacts for engagement with the contact portal(s) of the movable component or cylinder. Applicant argues that, in Bonder, the equivalent of the barrel in claim 54 is the fixed housing 51. The fixed housing 51 does not incorporate any contacts whatsoever. Rather, in Bonder, after contact between contact 17 of key 11 and contacts 18 of rotating tumbler mechanism 52, the electrical connection to the key lock controller 13 is by way of the connector 56 through a power data connection 57. Examiner disagrees with applicant. Examiner asserts that the Bonder reference does teach a barrel for retention (Figure 5, unit 51) of a movable component having contacts (figure 5, unit 57) for engagement with the contact portal(s) (Figure 5, unit 18) of the movable component or cylinder. As explained and shown in Figure 5, clearly, the housing 51 indeed includes contact 57 for engagement with the contact portal 18.

Applicant further argues that “there is no disclosure in Bonder of mating contact portal 22 of barrel 31. The contact portals 22 transmit electronic signals directly to an external processor or processing unit in lock body 20. There is no need for a connection 57 and connector 56 or switch 58”. Examiner asserts that applicant argues more than what is being claimed; and therefore, applicant argument is not persuasive.

Applicant’s arguments with respect to **claim 59** on page 14 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 59 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim 60** on page 14 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because the tumbler pins 53 of the Bonder reference are indeed “contacts” contained in the movable components or cylinder and they are also string biased to a position in abutment with a corresponding contact (the contacts when key blade 33 is properly aligned by the insertion of a matching key 11) of the biometric key.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim 41** on page 14 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that there is no teaching in Bonder and/or Spahn to an insulator being insertable into a slot of the key body and attached thereto. For this to occur, the insulator would have to be **a separate preformed solid element**. Examiner disagrees with applicant. The term “insert” simply means “to put or place in”. Therefore, the insulator does not have to be a separate preformed solid element.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim 42** on page 15 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the same reasons as explained in the argument of claim 41.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim 43** on page 15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 43 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim 44** on page 15 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because according to the teaching of Bonder et al. in view of Spain, then the circuit board is accommodated within the cavity of the key body (unit 11) and then the insulating compound 29 is filled around the circuit board. Therefore, the circuit board is indeed accommodated within a cavity of the insulator.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim 45** on page 15 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because applicant argues more than what is being claimed; and therefore, applicant argument is not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 46 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 45 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 52 and 86** on page 16 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because applicant argues more than what is being claimed; and therefore, applicant argument is not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 53 and 87** on page 16 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because the claims do not claim an additional chip in addition to the sensor. Therefore, the sensor can be interpreted as a smart chip.

Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 77 and 79** on page 16 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 77 and 79 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

64 ✓
7. Claims 54, 55, 58, 60-62, 65, 69-73 and 75-76 rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bonder et al. U.S. Patent 6,078,265.

Regarding claims 54, 69-73, 75 and 76, Bonder et al. teaches a mechanical lock body (Figure 5, unit 12) engageable with a biometric key (Figure 5, unit 11) which incorporates a biometric sensor (Figure 3, unit 37) for transmission of a signal representing a biocode of data generated by the biometric sensor, said mechanical lock body having a moveable component (Figure 5, unit 52; and paragraph bridging columns 6-7) having one or more contact portals (Figure 5, unit 18) for engagement with corresponding contact(s) of the biometric key (Figure 3, unit 17) when said key is engaged with the movable component (paragraph bridging columns 6-7); and a barrel for retention (Figure 5, unit 51) of said movable component having contact(s) (Figure 5,

unit 57) for engagement with the contact portal(s) of the movable component or cylinder whereby in use the signal is forwarded to processing means interfaced or electrically connected with the barrel upon engagement of the biometric key with said movable component for automatic generation of the signal for granting access to an authorized user of a facility (column 3, lines 11-13) accessible by the biometric key (columns 4-6).

Regarding claim 55, the barrel of the lock body disclosed by Bonder et al. also has a plurality of tumblers (Figure 5, units 53; and paragraph bridging columns 6-7) for engagement with a plurality of wards of said biometric key.

Regarding claim 58, Bonder et al. also teaches a mechanical lock body as claimed in claim 54, wherein after analysis of the signal by the processing means, access to the facility is provided by activation of a linear motor or solenoid located within the lock body, which is in electrical connection with the processing means, wherein said linear motor or solenoid is actuated to facilitate rotation of the movable component or cylinder relative to the barrel to cause unlocking of the lock body (line 59 of column 6 to line 10 of column 7).

Regarding claim 60, each of the contacts contained in the movable component disclosed by Bonder et al. are also spring biased to a position in abutment with a corresponding contacts of the biometric key (Figure 5, contacts 53 are spring biased; paragraph bridging columns 6-7)

Regarding claim 61, each of the contacts in the key body disclosed by Bonder et al. is also normal to a longitudinal axis of the biometric key in use.

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Regarding claim 62, each of the contacts disclosed by Bonder et al. are also accommodated within an insulator (the lock mechanism 12 is an insulator).

Regarding claims 64 and 65, Bonder et al. also teaches an indicator means indicating validation of biometric data generated by the sensor (column 7, lines 11-27; the indicator means in this case is the transmitter for transmitting the proper control signal to the vehicle ignition; also column 4 lines 23-26 suggests using LED as an indicator means).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 41, 42, 44, 45, 47-50, 52, 53, 80, 81-8⁷~~8~~ and 95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonder et al. U.S. Patent 6,078,265 in view of Spain U.S. Patent 5,311,757.

Regarding claims 41, 42, 44, 47-48 and 81-84, Bonder teaches a biometric key (Figure 1, unit 11) in the form of a mechanical key (unit 11) having a key body incorporating a biometric sensor (Figure 3, unit 37) for transmission of a signal represented by a biocode of data generated by the biometric sensor, said key body engageable with a mechanical lock body (Figure 1, unit 18) and having one or more electrical contacts (Figure, units 17; and column 6, lines 4-18) for engaging mating

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electrical contact(s) (Figure 1, units 18; and column 4, lines 27-40) of the mechanical lock body whereby in use said signal is forwarded to processing means interfaced with or electrically connected to the mechanical lock body for granting access to an authorized user to a facility (column 3, lines 11-13) accessible by the biometric key upon engagement of the key body with the mechanical lock body (column 4, lines 27-40), **except** characterized in that the sensor is surrounded by an insulator in the key body and the sensor is electrically connected to a circuit board associated with the insulator which circuit board is electrically connected to said one or more contacts, wherein the insulator is insertable into a slot of the key body and attached thereto.

Spahn teaches a key having an electronic circuit housed in a recess of the key body, wherein the recess is filled (inserted) with an insulating casting compound to protect the circuit from dirt and moisture (paragraph bridging columns 3-4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide surrounding the sensor circuit, disclosed by Bonder et al., with an insulator in the key body and the sensor is electrically connected to a circuit board associated with the insulator which circuit board is electrically connected to said one or more contacts, wherein the insulator is insertable into a slot of the key body and attached thereto, as evidenced by Spahn, in order to protect the circuit from dirt and moisture.

Regarding claim 45, the circuit board taught by Bonder et al., at one end, does have contact traces or wire leads which engage with corresponding contacts traces of

an adjacent end of the biometric sensor (figure 4 shows that the scanner 37 does have wire leads which engage with the contact traces of the circuit board 42).

Regarding claims 49 and 85, the key body of the biometric key disclosed by Bonder et al. does have a handle (Figure 3, unit 31) incorporating the biometric sensor and a blade portion (Figure 3, unit 33).

Regarding claim 50, the blade portion disclosed by Bonder et al. does have a plurality of wards (Figure 3, units 19).

Regarding claims 52, 86 and 95, Bonder et al. also teaches a pair of contact pins (figure 3, contact pins 17) located in accommodating insulator sleeves (key body 31 is an insulator). The contact pins 17 are normal to a longitudinal axis of the key body in use.

Regarding claims 53 and 87, the key body of the biometric key disclosed by Bonder et al. also incorporates a smart chip (Figure 4, unit 37).

Regarding claims 80 and 88⁷, the key body disclosed by Bonder et al. also has an inbuilt processor chip (Figure 4, unit 42).

10. Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonder et al. U.S. Patent 6,078,265 in view of Spaln U.S. Patent 5,311,757 and in further view of Imedio U.S. Patent 4,947,662.

Regarding claim 51, Bonder et al. in view of Spaln teaches a biometric key as claimed in claim 51, except wherein the blade portion does not incorporate wards.

One skilled in the art would recognize that the conventional key blades have been designed to incorporate wards and also not including wards depending on the design of the key blade and the lock in order to rotate the tumbler mechanism of the lock, as evidenced by Imedio.

Imedio teaches an electronic locking device, wherein the key blade does not incorporate wards (Figure 5, blade 2 does not incorporate wards; last paragraph of column 4).

Therefore, by conventionality, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made not to provide wards to the key blade of the key disclosed by Bonder et al. in view of Spaln, as evidenced by Imedio.

11. Claims 56-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonder et al. U.S. Patent 6,078,265 in view of Cockburn U.S. Patent 5,055,658.

Regarding claim 56, Bonder et al. teaches a mechanical lock body as claimed in claim 56, except incorporating an internal processing unit in said barrel. The processing unit taught by Bonder et al. is located outside the barrel (Figure 1, unit 13).

Cockburn, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a mechanical lock body, which includes an internal processing unit (Figure 1, unit 2) in the retention barrel in order to enable said lock to carry out a programming operation (paragraph bridging columns 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to equip an internal processing unit in the retention barrel of the

lock body disclosed by Bonder et al., as evidenced by Cockburn, in order to carry out certain programming operation.

Regarding claim 57, Bonder et al. also teaches an external processor or computer for enrolment of biometric data (column 5, lines 50-62).

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 43, 59, 63 and 89-94 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 43, the prior arts of record fail to teach or disclose a biometric key as claimed in claim 41, wherein the biometric sensor is accommodated within a mating recess in the insulator.

Regarding claim 59, the prior arts of record fail to teach or disclose a mechanical lock body as claimed in claim 58, wherein the rotation of the movable component or cylinder is caused by corresponding rotation of a locking pin within the lock body which is due to actuation of the linear motor or solenoid.

Regarding claim 63, the prior arts of record fail to teach or disclose a mechanical lock body as claimed in claim 60, wherein within each insulator where are provided an inner contact for touching corresponding contacts of biometric key in use and an outer contacts separated from an adjacent inner contact by a spring.

13. Claims 46, 77 and 79 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 46, the prior arts of record fail to teach or disclose a biometric key as claimed in claim 46, wherein the insulator incorporates a plurality of contact portals in contact with corresponding contacts or wire leads of the circuit board.

Regarding claim 77, the prior arts of record fail to teach or disclose a process for providing access to a facility by using a biometric key as claimed in claim 77, wherein enrolment of an authorized biometric signature takes place by initial engagement of said biometric key with said receptor body and actuation of the biometric sensor for automatic generation of a signal representing said biocode of data which represents said authorized biometric signature which is then captured into said database of the processing unit and wherein the host computer requests personal and/or demographic information relative to the authorized biometric signature before said capture of the authorized biometric signature.

Conclusion

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Q. Dang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3069. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6PM.



If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Hung Q Dang
11/16/2006
H.D.



WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600